

Table 8: Comparison of major black business locations for 1897 and 1900

| Street | 1897 Address | 1900 Address |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| N. 2 nd | 28 | 10 |
| S. 2 nd | 11 | 6 |
| N. 4 th | 15 | 20 |
| S. 7 th | 14 | 11 |
| Front | 24 | 19 |
| Market | 18 | 4 |
| Princess | 17 | 6 |
| Water | 10 | 11 |
| Totals | 137 | 87 |

Data: All entries from the Individual Section of the City Directory for Wilmington, NC in 1897 and 1900.

This table demonstrates that over half of the city's black businesses were clustered in three areas -- the downtown business district, N. 4th and S. 7th.

By 1900, the businesses had shifted away from the city's center and toward the secondary districts and into traditionally black areas of the city.

Although some black business owners retained their businesses after the riot, the directory data suggests that the black businesses and entrepreneurs experienced a decrease in the stature of their businesses. Evidence of this is obtained by analyzing the locations of businesses before and after the riot. Prior to the riot, many black business owners were located in the main business districts of town. After the riot there was a migration of black businesses away from the main business districts. This suggests that many of the black owned businesses may have decreased in size after the riot. It could also suggest that certain black owned businesses were no longer welcome in the main business section of town. It is not clear why, exactly, the business climate changed for African American businesses.

White businesses also experienced changes in the city as a result of the riot.

Table 8 demonstrates that there were 789 white businesses in the city in 1897. Of those, most were located in the downtown business district. There were 771 white businesses in the city in 1900, a decrease of 18.